

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20

COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 HA-05 IO-14 AID-05

PC-05 ACDA-12 SY-05 TRSE-00 /138 W

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SUBJ: REACTIONS TO PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

REF: LIMA 4413

1. SUMMARY: REACTIONS TO PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ' MAY 20 SPEECH HAVE BEEN MIXED BUT GENERALLY POSITIVE. SEVERAL POLITICAL LEADERS NOTED THE PRESIDENT'S REMARK THAT THE SCHEDULE FOR RETURN TO CIVILIAN CONSTITUTIONAL RULE COULD BE ADVANCED. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOCIETY OF INDUSTRIES PREDICTED THAT THE MESSAGE WILL MARK A TURNING POINT IN PERU'S ECONOMIC HISTORY. END SUMMARY.

2. REACTIONS OF CENTER AND RIGHT POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS, CARRIED IN PRESS MAY 22, HAVE BEEN GENERALLY FAVORABLE. ERNESTO ALAYZA GRUNDY OF LUIS BEDOYA REYES' PPC CALLED THE SPEECH POSITIVE AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE EMERGENCY MEASURES ENACTED WOULD BE, AS THE PRESIDENT INDICATED, ONLY TEMPORARY. APRA'S RAMIRO PRIALE CALLED THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS OPPORTUNE AND POSITIVE AND PRAISED MORALES BERMUDEZ' RATIFICATION OF THE ARMED FORCES' COMMITMENT TO RESPECT THE RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE. JAVIER ORTIZ DE ZEVALLOS, LEADER OF RIGHTIST MDP (SMALLER GROUP THAN PPC OR APRA) REMARKED ON THE SINCERITY AND HONESTY OF THE SPEECH AND MORALES BERMUDEZ' CENSURE OF THE ALLEGED SUBVERSIVE INSPIRATION BEHIND RECENT DISORDERS. CARMEN LEGUIA OF THE PDRP
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(A RIGHTIST FRINGE PARTY) REACTED POSITIVELY TO OFFICIAL COGNITION THAT THE PERUVIAN PEOPLE HAVE NOT BEEN WELL INFORMED AND TO ASSURANCES THAT THE ELECTORAL PROCESS WILL BE RESPECTED. THE SMALL, REGIONALLY BASED FNTC OF ROGER CACERES (SELF-CHARACTERIZED AS DEMOCRATIC LEFT) CALLED THE SPEECH "IMPORTANT" BUT ADDED THAT HIS PARTY STILL HAS DOUBTS ABOUT THE GOP'S PLEDGE TO PLAY A CLEAN GAME, SINCE FNTC'S ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN VIRTUALLY

IGNORED BY THE GOP-CONTROLLED PRESS.

3. THE ONLY REALLY CRITICAL NOTE WAS SOUNDED BY AP'S JAVIER ALVA ORLANDINI, WHO CALLED ATTENTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S ADMISSION OF THE FAILURES OF THE FIRST PHASE AND TO HIS ANNOUNCEMENT OF MORE TAX MEASURES. ALVA ALSO CRITICIZED THE GOP'S REAFFIRMATION

OF ITS COMMITMENT TO THE CONVOKING OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, BUT NOTED THE PRESIDENT'S ALLUSION TO THE POSSIBILITY OF SPEEDING UP THE TRANSFER OF POWER. 'SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY, THE LEADER OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (PDG), HECTOR CORNEJO CHAVEZ, UNDERScoreD THE GOOD FAITH AND PATRIOTISM OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AND NOTED THAT HIS ECONOMIC PROPOSALS COINCIDE WITH THE PDC'S ECONOMIC REACTIVATION PLAN. PUBLIC REACTION TO THE SPEECH FROM OTHER LEFTIST PARTIES OTHER THAN PDC WERE NOT RPT NOT AVAILABLE.

4. IN THE BUSINESS SECTOR, THE MANAGER OF THE SOCIETY OF INDUSTRIES, ALVARO VILLALOBOS JUGO, REMARKED IN AN INTERVIEW IN GOP-OWNED "LA CRONICA" OF MAY 22 THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE WILL GENERATE A NEW ERA IN PERU'S ECONOMIC LIFE, CHARACTERIZED BY GOVERNMENT COOPERATION INSTEAD OF THE DANGEROUS, IRRESPONSIBLE CRITICISM THAT EXISTED IN THE PAST. VILLALOBOS PRAISED MORALES BERMUDEZ' PLEDGE TO DEAL WITH INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH DIGNITY AND FIRMNESS. IN THE SAME VEIN, THE PRESIDENT OF THE EXPORTERS' ASSOCIATION, JAMES MACDONALD CHECA, CALLED THE SPEECH CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE.

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